

The French Minister of the Interior Nicolas Sarkozy endorses the Electronic Passport Forum

Milan, March 21st, 2006 - Wise Media S.p.A. is honored to announce that Mr. Nicolas Sarkozy, the French Minister of the Interior, endorses the Electronic Passport Forum, the annual international summit on the introduction of electronic travel documents and the revolution this represents. This year's event will take place in Paris on June 8th and 9th at the Hyatt Regency Paris – Charles de Gaulle.

"In the globalized scenario we live in today, with border security becoming ever more an issue, we must cross borders ourselves and work together on a common strategy for the creation of a global security infrastructure," comments Philippe Melchior, General Inspector at the French Ministry of Interior. "Communication platforms such as the Electronic Passport Forum are necessary to establish and facilitate the dialogue on the meaning, the challenges and the impact of the paradigm shift represented by the digitalization of travel documents as the core component of a new approach to global security."

This year's event will highlight and discuss the issues and opportunities related to the introduction of electronic travel documents, provide a snapshot of the status of deployments on a global scale and showcase the technology at the basis of the entire life cycle of machine readable travel documents. Focusing closely on the European scenario, the Electronic Passport Forum will analyze the three waves of introduction of electronic travel documents - first **ePassports**, then **National IDs** and finally **Visas** - and the roll-out of the infrastructure necessary to support this major shift. As a consequence of the mandatory implementation of a relatively narrow project, the introduction of electronic travel documents worldwide will pave the way towards the much broader market penetration of RFID and biometric technology in the areas of citizen ID and e-government projects.

The Electronic Passport Forum is the global summit focusing on the revolution represented by the introduction of electronic travel documents: **ePassports, National IDs and Visa.**

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